



## ENCYCLOPEDIA OF WOMEN AND ISLAMIC CULTURES

### Women in Iranian Politics

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#### EWIC Staff: Datasheet:

- ❖ President Hassan Rouhani (2013-) has appointed three women to his administration: the Vice president for Legal Affairs, Elham Amin-Zadeh; Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi and Vice-President and Head of Environmental Protection Organization, Masoumeh Ebtekar, in 2013.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ In the 2009 presidential campaign thousands of women regardless of socioeconomic status supported the two reformist's candidates who advocated for women's rights. This election cycle a number of candidates had women advising and campaigning for them in public.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Mahmoud Ahmadinejad former President of Iran (2005-2013) nominated three women to his administration. Only one of his nominees, Marzieh-Vahid Dastjerd, was confirmed and took her position as Minister of Health.<sup>1</sup>
- ❖ Iran's first female Vice President was elected under the administration of President Mohammad Khatami in 1997 and in 2013 under President Hassan Rouhani.<sup>2</sup>
- ❖ For the 2009 elections, 42 women attempted to run for president. The Guardian Council barred these women from running for president. Within the same election cycle the Council suggested that women would not be disqualified from running for high government positions.<sup>3</sup> In 2013, 30 women filed for candidacy to run for president. Their presidential nomination bids were rejected by the Guardian Council.<sup>4</sup>
- ❖ Women were granted the right to vote in 1963 under the rule of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.<sup>5</sup>
- ❖ In 2004, 13 women were elected into the Iranian Parliament. This was the largest number since the 1979 revolution. That same year women judges began to serve as special advisers to clerics who worked in family courts.<sup>6</sup> As of 2009, 3% or 9 out of 290 seats of parliamentary seats in Iran are held by women.<sup>7</sup>
- ❖ Iran's parliament designates five seats for religious minorities. These five seats are proportionate to religious populations. These populations include: Jews, Christians, and Zoroastrians. Iran's parliaments have always included women and ethnic minorities.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.president.ir/en/cabinet>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unep.org/champions/laureates/2006/ebtekar.asp#sthash.XeMt8pIa.dpbs>

<sup>3</sup> <http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/womens-movement>

<sup>4</sup> <http://thediplomat.com/2013/09/the-slow-rise-of-irans-women/>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/suffrage.htm>

<sup>6</sup> <http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/womens-movement>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

<sup>8</sup> <http://iranprimer.usip.org/resource/parliament>